

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated June 8, 2011. Claims 1-25, 27-34, 36-38, 50-55, 57-62 currently stand rejected. As explained below, however, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the cited combination of references. Nonetheless, to expedite prosecution and bring additional clarity to the claims, Applicants have amended the claims without the introduction of new matter. Claims 50-55 and 57-62 have been cancelled rendering the rejections and objection to those claims moot. New claims 63-74 have been added and are patentable for at least same reasons as their respective independent claims. In view of the amendments and the remarks presented herein, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments, reconsideration, and allowance of all of the pending claims of the present application.

A. Objections to the Specification are Overcome.

The specification has been objected to for various informalities. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to overcome the objections as provided above.

B. Claims 1-17, and 25 are Definite.

Claims 1-17 and 25 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for allegedly being indefinite. In response, Applicants have amended the claims to overcome the rejections as provided in the claim amendments above.

C. Claims 1-4, 9-20, 23-25, 27-34, and 36-38 are Novel.

Claims 1-4, 9-20, 23-25, 27-34, and 36-38 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0702323 to Chan. However, Chan fails to anticipate the claimed invention because Chan does not teach each and every feature of the claimed invention. In particular, independent claim 1, and similarly independent claims 2, 18, 33, and 36 recite the feature of participation in an arbitration sequence, in addition to the other features of the claims. This feature of the claims is not taught or suggested by Chan.

Contrary to the disclosure of Chan, the amended claims include an arbitration sequence

occurring subsequent to the selection command where the transponder performs operations in response to the arbitration. The Office Action cites to Chan for disclosing the selection of transponders. However, Chan does not disclose any type of arbitration with transponders as recited in the independent claims.

As such, independent claims 1, 2, 18, 33, and 36, and their respective dependent claims, are patentable over Chan for at least the reasons cited above. The rejection of claims 1-4, 9-20, 23-25, 27-34, and 36-38 is therefore overcome.

D. Claims 5-8 and 21-22 are Nonobvious.

Claims 5-8 and 21-22 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,880,050 to Kroger. However, the cited combination relies upon Chan for disclosing the same features as described above with respect to the anticipation rejection. Since Chan fails in this regard, and Kroger does not cure the deficiencies of Chan (nor is Kroger cited for this purpose), dependent claims 5-8 and 21-22 are patentable over the cited combination due at least to the failures of Chan. The rejections of claims 5-8 and 21-22 are therefore overcome.

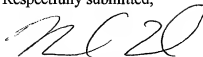
CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. In order to expedite the examination of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

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Amdt. dated November 8, 2011
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N T Quirk'.

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